

of Rome, as the rules of a private society may differ from the code of a State. Its establishment at Geneva, in the form which it assumed in the last half of the sixteenth century, was the result of nearly twenty years of struggle between the Council of the city and the Consistory, composed of ministers and laymen. It was only in 1555 that the latter finally vindicated its right* to excommunicate, and only in the edition of the *Institutes* which appeared in 1559 that a scheme of church organization and discipline was set out. But, while the answer to the question of the constitution of the authority by whom discipline was to be exercised depended on political conditions, and thus differed in different places and periods, the necessity of enforcing a rule of life, which was the practical aspect of discipline, was from the start of the very essence of Calvinism. Its importance was the theme of a characteristic letter addressed by Calvin to Somerset in October 1548, the moment of social convulsion for which Bucer wrote his book *De Regno Christi*. The Protector is reminded that it is not from lack of preaching, but from failure to enforce compliance with it, that the troubles of England have sprung. Though crimes of violence are punished, the licentious are spared, and the licentious have no part in the Kingdom of God. He is

urged to make sure that " les hommes
 soient tenus en
 bonne et honneste discipline,¹¹ and to be
 careful " que
 ceulx qui oyent la doctrine de TEvangile
 s'approuvent
 estre Chrestiens par saintit  de vie.¹¹ '*
 "Prove themselves Christians by
 holiness of life"
 —the words might be taken as the motto of
 the Swiss
 reformers, and their projects of social
 reconstruction
 are a commentary on the sense in which "
 holiness of
 life¹¹ was understood. It was in that
 spirit that
 Zwingli took the initiative in forming at
 Zurich a board
 of moral discipline, to be composed of the
 clergy, the
 magistrates and two elders ; emphasized the
 importance
 of excommunicating offenders against
 Christian morals ,